

## Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 298347 TOSEC 320063

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 8 HEADED "BIDDING ON BASES."

2. IT IS FORTUNATE FOR THE COUNTRY THAT A NEW AGREEMENT  
FOR UNITED STATES USE OF AIR AND NAVAL BASES IN THE PHILIP-  
PINES IN RETURN FOR LARGE-SCALE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID  
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT FERDINAND E. MARCOS WILL BE  
DELAYED UNTIL THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION CAN TAKE A FRESH  
LOOK. IT WAS MOST UNWISE, IN OUR VIEW, FOR SECRETARY OF  
STATE KISSINGER TO HAVE TRIED, BARELY SIX WEEKS BEFORE  
LEAVING OFFICE, TO PUSH THROUGH A PACT CALLING FOR A BILLION  
DOLLARS OF AMERICAN AID TO THE INCREASINGLY REPRESSIVE RE-  
GIME IN MANILA.

3. MR. KISSINGER WAS CLEARLY TRYING TO INSURE CONTINUED  
AVAILABILITY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AMERICAN MILITARY FACILI-  
TIES BETWEEN HAWAII AND THE ASIAN MAINLAND, IN AN AGREEMENT  
THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THE DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS  
WOULD FIND IT EMBARRASSING TO REPUDIATE. STATE DEPARTMENT  
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OFFICIALS, BY CONTRAST, TENDED TO CONSIDER IT UNWISE TO AT-

TEMPT SUCH A LARGE-SCALE FOREIGN POLICY PROJECT SO LATE IN THE TENURE OF THE SECRETARY.

4. EVIDENTLY MR. KISSINGER BELIEVED PRESIDENT MARCOS WOULD BE EAGER TO SETTLE NOW, THEORIZING THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MIGHT BE MORE RELUCTANT THAN ITS PREDECESSOR TO BUTTRESS A MANILA REGIME THAT HAS GOVERNED UNDER MARTIAL LAW SINCE 1972. BUT MR. MARCOS APPARENTLY WANTS EVEN MORE MILITARY AID THAN THE \$500 MILLION EARMARKED OVER FIVE YEARS IN THE BILLION-DOLLAR PROPOSAL, AND REPORTEDLY REJECTED THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT AT THE LAST MINUTE.

5. PARTICULARLY DISCONCERTING IN THE WHOLE EPISODE, APART FROM PRIORITY GIVEN TO MILITARY BASES OVER CONSIDERATIONS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WAS THE WILLINGNESS TO PLEDGE HUGE SUMS THAT ONLY CONGRESS CAN APPROPRIATE. IT WAS REMINISCENT OF THE COSTLY BASE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN, PUSHED THROUGH ONLY A MONTH BEFORE THE DEATH OF GENERALISSIMO FRANCO. CONGRESS HAS YET TO ACT ON A BILLION-DOLLAR ARMS-FOR-BASES DEAL THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER CONCLUDED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY WITH TURKEY LAST MARCH, AND A \$700MILLION "BALANCING" AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GREECE IN APRIL.

6. PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER AND HIS PROSPECTIVE SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, WILL DOUBTLESS WISH TO REVIEW THOSE PACTS, TOO, ALONG WITH RECONSIDERING HOW FAR TO GO IN MEETING THE DEMANDS OF PRESIDENT MARCOS IN RETURN FOR THE UNQUESTIONABLY VALUABLE FACILITIES OF SUBIC BAY AND CLARK FIELD. (END OF TEXT.) ROBINSON

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